



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Salmon-Challis
National Forest
Challis-Yankee
Ranger District

HC 63 Box 1669, Hwy
Challis, ID 83226
208 879-4199

File Code: 2230/2210

Date: May 19, 2015

Roy Hoffman Jr.
HC 62 Box 2290
May, ID 83253

Dear RJ,

This letter serves as your 2015 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Sulphur Creek and Pahsimeroi Allotments, and should be considered an extension of Term Grazing Permit #20073. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

Permitted Use

Circle Pi Ranch

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	150 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 10/05	626
Upper Pahsimeroi	226 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 08/31	684 ¹
Pahsimeroi	400 cow calf	Term	06/06 – 09/28	1229

1. The Upper Pahsimeroi allotment has 583 head months (HM) on NF lands and 111 HMs on the portion of BLM lands within the Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch Unit are permitted.

RJ Hoffman

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	102 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 10/05	429
Pahsimeroi	274 cow/calf	Term	06/06 – 09/28	1036

Authorized Use for 2015

Circle Pi Ranch

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	150 cow/calf	Term	06/14 – 10/05	562
Pahsimeroi	260 cow/calf	Term	06/06 Trail	9
Pahsimeroi	260 cow/calf	Term	08/03 – 09/16	385
Upper Pahsimeroi ^{BLM}	260 cow/calf	Term	06/07 – 06/21	128
Upper Pahsimeroi ^{NF}	260 cow/calf	Term	06/22 – 08/02	359

RJ Hoffman

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	102 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 10/05	429
Pahsimeroi	225 cow/calf	Term	06/06 – 09/16	762



Pasture Rotation

The on-dates listed above are only a guide. Actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moving off the allotment must occur before forage utilization standards have been met, and no later than the scheduled off-date.

Sulphur Creek Allotment

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Trail Creek ^{BLM}	102	06/01	6/13
Trail Creek ^{FS}	252	6/14	08/07
Sulphur Creek	252	8/08	10/05
Camp Creek	0	REST	REST

The Sulphur Creek allotment will be used in common with RJ Hoffman. The 102 pair of cattle owned by RJ Hoffman will join with the 150 pair of Circle Pi cattle on the adjacent BLM allotment and enter the Forest Service allotment as one herd. They will follow the above rotation and exit the allotment as one herd.

Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Trail through	260 ¹	06/06	06/06
Christian Gulch	225 ²	06/06	06/20
Lower Road	225 ²	06/21	06/28
Spring Hill Uplands	225 ²	06/29	07/19
Spring Hill Flats	225 ²	07/20	08/16
Mahogany Uplands	260 ¹	08/03	09/03
Upper Road	225 ²	08/17	09/15
Upper Road	260 ¹	09/04	09/15
Lower Road (trailing)	485 ³	09/16	09/16

Circle Pi cows¹

Hoffman cows²

Combined Circle Pi cows & Hoffman cows³

To manage the Spring Hill Flats and Spring Hill Uplands, given no fence between the units, you must actively manage the livestock so they stay in the proper unit. Key areas of concern include: the spring area west of Carlson, Drake Draw and above 39 Spring. To be able to use the Spring Hill Flats unit as identified in the table above, herding is considered successful when forage use at ¼ mile from the Double Troughs below Twin Spring is negligible (e.g. 0 – 5% using the Landscape Appearance method). If use of the Spring Hill Flats unit is more than negligible by the end of use in the Spring Hill Uplands unit (no later than 7/19), then the rotation for the remainder of the year will be adjusted and shortened.

Livestock moves between pastures or off of the allotment will occur before forage utilization standards have been met and no later than the authorized off-date.

You will need to have a rider on the Pahsimeroi Allotment 5 days per week. Effective herding to manage the timing and intensity of use will be critical to success.

Moving from to pasture to pasture or leaving allotment at the end of the season will occur before forage utilization standards have been met and no later than the scheduled off-date.

Utilization Standards

Sulphur Creek Allotment

Unit	Indicator	Standard
Sulphur Creek & Trail Creek	Greenline	$\geq 4''$
	Bank Alteration	$\leq 20\%$
	Woody Browse	$\leq 50\%$
	Uplands	$\leq 50\%$
Camp Creek	No visible use, unit is rested in 2015	

Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Indicator	Standard
All Units	Greenline	$\geq 4''$
	Bank Alteration	NA
	Woody Browse	$\leq 50\%$
	Upland Grazing	$\leq 50\%$

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. Three days prior to initial cattle turn-out, please inform the authorized officer in charge.
2. It is your responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded. You must notify the Rangeland Management Specialist of this move.
3. Riding and herding are necessary to properly distribute livestock. You must provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of cattle, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.
4. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards. Do not rely on range personnel to monitor use.*
5. Salt should be placed on accessible range at least $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows, and other areas where cattle naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.

6. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider. Notification to your Range Management Specialist of the issues must be made immediately
7. Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by the Rangeland Management Specialist.
8. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the forest for the feeding of horses must be Certified Weed Free.
9. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention and inventory of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist.
10. Any motorized travel on routes not designated in the Salmon-Challis National Forest Travel Plan must have District Ranger written authorization in advance
11. *The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the allotment.*

Biological Assessment for Pahsimeroi Allotment

The following conservation measures will be implemented as part of the proposed action and incorporated into the term grazing permits to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA-listed fish:

1. Several years ago, livestock grazing was discontinued in the Mahogany Creek Unit which includes the entire Mahogany Creek drainage in order to protect and restore the bull trout population and bull trout habitat within Mahogany Creek. This action is being continued as part of the current proposed action. Grazing will not resume in the Mahogany Creek Unit prior to a new biological assessment being prepared.

Range Improvements

Range improvements, including fences and water developments, will be maintained before

livestock enter a unit. If an improvement is not able to be repaired, it will need to be reconstructed. Fences need to be in a condition to be able to keep cows in their proper locations. Troughs will hold water, have bird ramps installed, and be floated or piped to the next trough or have an outlet pipe back to the water's channel. Any ground disturbing work needed to meet these requirements must have separate written authorization in advance. Archaeological clearances have been completed for the cleaning of existing ponds on the allotment; however, you will need an authorization letter from the District Ranger prior to work being started and Forest Service personnel must accompany you while pond cleaning work is being done.

NEPA analysis and a decision for the Pahsimeroi Springs Restoration project was completed this winter; implementation will begin this spring/early summer. You have been provided the Decision Memo for the project which shows the locations of the fences to be constructed and the specifications that each one is to be built to. Please contact the Rangeland Management Specialist before starting work on the project so that fence locations, gates, required practices, and all aspects of the project are understood.

The following are the lists of improvements we identified in the 2015 AOI meeting for each allotment that requires significant maintenance or reconstruction. The reconstruction of the following range improvements will be completed as funding allows:

Pahsimeroi

1. Twin Springs pipeline needs 2.5 miles of pipe re-constructed and troughs plumbed in with floats and bird ladders.
2. All ponds in the Spring Hill area will be cleaned this year.
3. Christian Gulch pipeline lower water development was flowing onto the ground in 2014 and needs to be floated or have an overflow returned to the channel.
4. The Pahsimeroi Allotment Spring Rehabilitation fences will be constructed this year according to the specifications identified in the decision document that was provided to you.
5. All other range improvements on the allotment need to be maintained to the standards listed in your term grazing permit that is functional for their intended purpose and use.
6. **Note:** each permittee is responsible for maintaining all range improvements identified on your permit.

Old, unused pipeline and fencing materials or other garbage associated with spring developments and spring enclosures will need to be picked up and removed from these allotments by the end of the 2015 grazing season.

Sulphur Creek

1. Boundary fences between the Lime Gulch Allotment and the Sulphur Creek Allotment (#220469, #220476, and # 220491) require heavy maintenance.
2. The boundary fence #220410 between Lawson Creek Allotment and Sulphur Creek Allotment requires maintenance.
3. The boundary fences #22408 and #220407 between the Wino Basin Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Allotment and the Sulphur Creek Allotment require some heavy maintenance.
4. The fence between the Sulphur Creek Unit and the Trail Creek Unit # 220477 needs maintenance.
5. The fences #220452 and #220478 between the Camp Creek Unit and the Trail Creek Unit need maintenance.
6. All the water developments and other range improvements need to be maintained to the standards listed in your term grazing permit in a manner that is functional for their intended purpose and use.

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you, or any of your personnel, without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal yearly maintenance is your responsibility.

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the allotment map. Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit

Other Considerations

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

Enclosed is a Year-End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use Data for 2015 and range improvement needs for future grazing seasons. Please record the date and number of livestock

turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs must be returned to our office by December 1, 2015. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. The Forest Service will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction. These reports are also requested annually by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the forms is appreciate

If you have any questions regarding this AOI, please contact Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4100. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

/S/ KATHERINE L WOOD

KATHERINE L. WOOD
District Ranger

Enclosure
Vehicle Use Permit
Annual Use Bill

Salmon-Challis National Forest

Challis-Yankee Fork & Middle Fork Ranger Districts

Please fill out this report and return one copy to the District Ranger by: December 1, 2015.

Allotment Name: Sulphur Creek

Permittee: RJ Hoffman

Actual Number Grazed:

Cows _____ Calves _____ Bulls _____ Horses _____ Ewes _____ Lambs _____

Unit	Number	Date In	Date Out

Losses	Number	Value	Causes of Losses
Cow			
Calves			
Bulls			
Horses			

Calf Weights: On _____ Off _____

Maintenance of Range Improvements:

Permittee Costs for Material \$ _____

Permittee Man Hours Invested _____ @\$ _____ per hour

Herding: Days Spent by Permittee _____ @\$ _____ per day

Days Spent by Rider _____ @\$ _____ per day

Salting: Amount Placed _____ \$ _____ per unit

Other Costs:

In an effort to better serve your needs, we are implementing this portion of the annual use report to identify any structural range improvement that is priority for reconstruction. This will help us make plans to authorize money for out-years; we are anticipating a five year schedule.

Range Improvements in Need of Attention:

[illegible]

Comments:

[illegible]

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Salmon-Challis National Forest

Challis-Yankee Fork & Middle Fork Ranger Districts

Please fill out this report and return one copy to the District Ranger by: December 1, 2015.

Allotment Name: Pahsimeroi

Permittee: RJ Hoffman

Actual Number Grazed:

Cows _____ Calves _____ Bulls _____ Horses _____ Ewes _____ Lambs _____

Unit	Number	Date In	Date Out

Losses	Number	Value	Causes of Losses
Cow			
Calves			
Bulls			
Horses			

Calf Weights: On _____ Off _____

Maintenance of Range Improvements:

Permittee Costs for Material \$ _____

Permittee Man Hours Invested _____ @\$ _____ per hour

Herding: Days Spent by Permittee _____ @\$ _____ per day

Days Spent by Rider _____ @\$ _____ per day

Salting: Amount Placed _____ \$ _____ per unit

Other Costs:

In an effort to better serve your needs, we are implementing this portion of the annual use report to identify any structural range improvement that is priority for reconstruction. This will help us make plans to authorize money for out-years; we are anticipating a five year schedule.

Range Improvements in Need of Attention:

[illegible]

Comments:

[illegible]

Signature: _____ Date: _____